

oriented. This would just supplement them in order to make them make ends meet. I'd like to go a little bit on the...and I will turn on my light to finish up, but I'd also point out that three-fourths of the emergency shelters in the State of Nebraska are outside of the Omaha and Lincoln area. This is not, and we made it clear in the bill, I will talk about the geographic or the distribution formula, but this is not an Omaha bill. The studies we are seeing is that rural homelessness is increasing at an alarming rate. In Omaha, the shelters are there, albeit underfunded, they are in existence. In some of the rural areas, they simply are not...they are not in existence yet and they have to get started. The funds under this bill, the department, in looking at who to provide grants to, one of the factors that has to be considered is the geographic distribution of the funds, meaning that all the funds cannot be taken in by Omaha and Lincoln. They have to go to some of the shelters outside of those areas. Communities that already have shelters, such as, Auburn, Fairbury, Humboldt, Pawnee City, North Platte, Kimball, Scottsbluff, Ord, Hastings, McCook, Norfolk, and on, the shelters exist in quite a few of the cities within our farming areas. It is important that that be realized, that these are statewide...this is a statewide program and intended to be a statewide program. I will try to answer any questions as we go along, but I would urge you to advance LB 1192.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Lindsay. Further discussion on 1192. Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Mr. Speaker, members, I have some questions of Senator Lindsay, if he would yield, please?

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Lindsay, would you respond, please.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Yes.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Senator Lindsay, just why was DED chosen as the agency to...for this program?

SENATOR LINDSAY: DED did a study I believe last summer, over the past couple of years. It was a comprehensive housing affordability study, they have done a program to provide for or to look at long range, the causes of homelessness, and attempts to provide affordable housing. Because they are already deeply involved in the program, we felt appropriate...we originally drafted it for DSS, but we felt it appropriate to stay, rather